

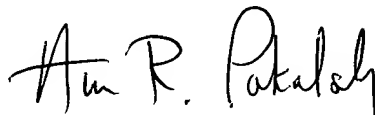
prejudice, which when considered with the following remarks, is deemed to place the present application in condition for allowance.

In the Advisory Action of November 15, 1999, the Examiner indicated that upon filing an appeal, Applicants' amendment submitted July 30, 1999, would be entered. A Notice of Appeal was also submitted on July 30, 1999, by Applicants. Upon entry of Applicants' July 30, 1999 amendment, the Examiner indicated that Claims 39, 40, 42, and 43 are allowed. Claims 38, 41, and 44, however, remain rejected.

By the present amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 38, 41, and 44 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims.

Inasmuch as Claims 39, 40, 42, and 43 are allowed, and Claims 38, 41, and 44 are presently canceled, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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